

Application/Control Number: 09/623,910
Art Unit: 1797

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gallagher on 11/6/08.

In the abstract line 2 "Sample support" has been deleted and in the last line of the abstract "(Fig.1)" has been deleted.

On page 17 of the original disclosure after line 6 "Brief Description of the Drawings" has been added.

In claim 24 line 6 "at least" has been changed to --more than--, in lines 8-9 "extended at an angular orientation" has been changed to --which forms an angle with respect-- and in lines ~~13-14~~ both occurrences of "and/or a" have been changed to --and/or comprising a--.

SR
11/20/08

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In addition to the remarks of record and the 3/28/06 reasons for allowance, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed sample support comprising a vent and a valve on teach channel wherein the valve comprises a "burst film" and/or a "hydrophobic insert" and/or a "hydrophobic inner wall." The 11/6/08 amendments were made to clarify the instant invention in light of the original disclosure.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should